(b) Steps have been taken to reduce the trade deficit by initiating a number of measures to promote exports and curtail inessential imports. The Balance of Payment turn — around plan also aims at augmenting foreign exchange earnings through NRI Deposits/Bonds, additional direct / indirect investments and increased tourism receipts.

Dowry deaths in Delhi

*143. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of dowry deaths in Delhi during the first six months of 1989 and what were the corresponding figures during the last two years;

(b) what is the number of cases which were recommended for prosecution, how many complaints were registered and how many were not filed; and

(c) what effective steps have been taken to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) The number of dowry deaths in Delhi during the first six months of 1989 is 47 as against 43 in the first six months of 1988 and 40 in the first six months of 1987.

47 cases were registered from 1.1.1989 to 30.6.1989 In 12 cases challans have been filed in courts.

The following steps have been taken to prevent dowry deaths:—

(i) Offences under the Dowry Prohibition Act have been made cognizable and attract more stringent punishment.

(ii) A new Section has been added in the Indian Penal Code making the offences of harassment and cruelty to women by their husbands and in-laws a cognizable offence.

(iii) New sub-sections 113-A and 113-B have been inserted in the Indian Evidence Act providing for presumption by a Court as to abetment of suicide/dowry death by a married woman if cruelty or harassment for dowry is proved.

(iv) Short-stay Home has been set up by the Delhi Administration for the use of women in distress.

(v) Special Magistrates have been detailed for recording dying declarations.

(vi) Public is being educated through the media about the evil of dowry.

(vii) Instructions have been issued to get postmortem examination conducted by two surgeons in dowry death cases.

(viii) A Special Cell for crime against women under the supervision of a woman Deputy Commissioner of Police has been set up.

राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम (एन टी सी) की मिलों का आधुनिकीकरण संबंधी कार्यक्रम

*144. सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम ने अपनी कपड़ा मिलों को लाभ कमाने के आधार पर चलाये जाने के उद्देश्य से आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजनावधि के दौरान उनका आधुनिकीकरण करने के लिये 600 करोड़ रुपये की राशि दिये जाने का अनुरोध किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने उक्त अनुरोध पर विचार किया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या निर्णय लिया गया है ?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री रामनिवास मिर्धा): (क) से (ग) राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम ने अपनी वस्त्र मिलों का आधुनिकीकरण करने का एक प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किया है आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना अवधि के लिए 523.76 करोड़ रु० के परिव्यय का प्रावधान है। एनटीसी मिलों के सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने अभी तक आठवीं योजना के प्रस्तावों को अंतिम रूप नहीं दिया है।

Closed jute mills in West Bengal

*145. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of jute mills locked out/closed in West Bengal as on 1st July, 1989 and the number of workers affected thereby;

(b) what is the total number of jute mills and also the number of workers employed in these mills as on 1st July, 1989;

(c) what is the total number of jute mills in West Bengal taken over by the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd., Calcutta and the number of workers employed in these mills as on 1st July, 1989; and

(d) whether Governmnet are considering any proposal to take over some more jute mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) As on 1st July, 1989 in West Bengal 19 jute mills were under lock-out/closure affecting around 64,400 workers.

(b) Total number of jute mills in the country is 73, employing approximately 2,50,000 workers. Of these the number of Jute Mills in West Bengal is 59 employing approximately 2,22,100 workers.

(c) There are 5 Nationalised Jute Mills in West Bengal managed by National Jute Manufactures Corporation employing around 27,998 workers.

(d) No, Sir.

Export of Copra

*147. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are exporting Copra;

(b) whether Government are charging export duty on its considering it as oilseeds; and

(c) if so, what is the rate of export duty being charged and the total amount earned on this account during the year 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir. Export of copra is banned.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Purchase of commodities/goods from India by M/s. A.B. Bofors

*151. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 155 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd November, 1988 and state:

(a) whether any meeting between M/s. A.B. Bofors and the State Trading Corporation of India were held recently; and

(b) what are the details of the commodities/goods purchased by M/s. A.B. Bofors till 30th June, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes Sir. Two Review Meetings were held by the State Trading Corporation with the representatives of M/s. A.B. Bofors recently in January, 1989 and April, 1989.